## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 L-03 /053 W

R 110009Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2043 INFO SECDEF WASHDC CSAF WASHDC USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ USAFSO ALBROOK AFS CZ

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SECDEF FOR ISA(SA)DSAA; HQUSAF FOR LGFT; USCINCSO FOR SCSA; USAFSO FOR CDLX

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, MX

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE

AND TRAINING

REF: MEXICO 06872

- 1. DURING OUR CONVERSATION MAY 9, FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL REFERRED TO EMBASSY'S NOTE OF APRIL 29 REGARDING RECENTLY-ENACTED PROVISIONS OF US LAW AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY FOR US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING. WITH CHARACTERISTIC FRANKNESS, ROEL STATED THAT HE THOUGHT US WAS "ASKING TOO MUCH" FOR A PROGRAM OF \$200,000 PER YEAR OF TRAINING. HE SAID MEXICO WELCOMED THE TRAINING BUT MEXICAN DIGNITY REQUIRED THAT IT NOT COME WITH TOO MANY STRINGS ATTACHED.
- 2. I EXPLAINED TO FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT REQUIREMENT FOR ASSURANCES IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE WAS IN KEEPING WITH PROVISIONS OF US LEGISLATION, TO WHICH HE REPLIED THAT HE CONFIDENTIAL

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CERTAINLY DID NOT WANT TO TRY TO TELL US CONGRESS OR THE EXECUTIVE HOW TO CONDUCT ITS AFFAIRS; BUT FROM THE MEXICAN POINT OF VIEW, A RIGID DEMAND FOR ASSURANCES OF TYPE REQUESTED IN THE NOTE MADE THE GOM QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD WANT TO CONTINUE ACCEPTING US TRAINING. I EXPLAINED THAT ONLY MATERIEL-RELATED TRAINING, NOT ALL TRAINING, WAS AFFECTED BY THE ASSURANCES AND CONDITIONS IN THE NOTE,

BUT ROEL DID NOT APPEAR TO REGISTER THIS DISTINCTION OR PERHAPS DID NOT CONSIDER IT SIGNIFICANT. I ALSO SUGGESTED THE ASSURANCES REQUESTED WERE NOT SO ONEROUS AS THE SECRETARY SEEMED TO THINK. HE DEMURRED BUT SUGGESTED THAT WE LOOK JOINTLY AT THE TERMS OF THE NOTE, WHICH WE WILL DO IN A FURTHER MEETING PLANNED FOR MAY 16 OR 17.

- 3. COMMENT: LIKE BARTLETT (SEE REFTEL), HE MAY BE WORRYING ABOUT THE MAP-RELATED REQUIREMENT FOR REPORTING TO THE CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN MEXICO. WHILE I HOPE THAT MEXICO IS NOT CONTEMPLATING RENUNCIATION OF ALL US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AT THIS TIME, THE PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE NOT PROMISING.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS ON HOW WE CAN HANDLE THE ISSUE OF MEXICAN REPLY TO OUR NOTE, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THEM BY MAY 15. THOMPSON

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NNN

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